

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJ: LABOR UNLEASHES POLITICAL OFFENSIVE

REF: BA 1973

SUMMARY: ORGANIZED LABOR LAUNCHES ALL OUT DRIVE TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS MAJOR PARTICIPANT IN POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT PROCESSES. INDICATIONS ARE THAT A SHOWDOWN IS NEAR OVER LOPEZ REGA'S SHIELDING OF PRESIDENT FROM CONTACT WITH LABOR AND HIS EXERCISE OF POWER. OTHER GOA FIGURES MAY ALSO FEEL CRUNCH OF LABOR STEAMROLLER. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR'S HERETOFORE BEHIND-THE-SCENE MANEUVERING IN OPPOSITION TO LOPEZ REGA AND IN SEARCH OF A GREATER VOICE IN THE POLITICAL ARENA HAS NOW BECOME AN OPEN OFFENSIVE. THE FIRST SALVO FIRED BY THE LABOR LEGISLATORS ON MARCH 18 (BA 1973) HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY A MARCH 24 COMMUNIQUE WHICH PUBLICLY PITS ORGANIZED LABOR AGAINST THOSE IN THE PERONIST MOVEMENT AND THE GOA WHO ARE BLOCKING LABORS ASPIRATIONS TO POWER. COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED FOLLOWING MEETING ALL SECTORS ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT, INCLUDING 62 ORGANIZATIONS, CGT (INCLUDING SECGENS CCC), YOUNG PERONIST WORKERS (JSP), PERONIST NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LABOR CONGRESSMEN, AND REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL LABOR LEADERS AND GOVT OFFICIALS.

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2. MAJOR POINTS COMMUNIQUE ARE: REAFFIRMATION OF LOYALTY TO

PRESIDENT PERON, INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF VERTICALITY REGARDING HER DECISIONS IN BOTH GOVT AND POLITICAL MATTERS, ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHO ATTEMPT TO CONFUSE THE PEOPLE BY DAMAGING REPUTATION OF THE GOVT; DEMAND THAT LABOR MAINTAIN SAME "DIRECT AND FLUID" CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT WHICH IT ENJOYED WITH GENERAL PERON; AND OBSERVATION THAT LABOR "MUST HAVE A REAL AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TACTICAL EXECUTION OF GREAT NATIONAL PTLICIES". COMMUNIQUE ALSO STATES THAT LABOR "NOW KNOWS WHO ITS FRIEDNDS AND ENEMIES ARE", AND UNDERSTANDS THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THEMSELVES UNITED AND FIRM, FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE "ROLE WHICH CORRESPTNDs TO THEM".

3. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE, AND A CGT CC OFFICIAL PRESENT AT MARCH 24 MEETING CONFIRMED TO LABATT, THAT A SECOND DOCUMENT DETAILING SPECIFICS OF LABORS COMPLAINTS WILL BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT. SOURCE INDICATED THAT CONTENTS SECOND DOCUMENT WERE NOT OPENLY DISCUSSED AT MEETING. REPORTEDLY, SECOND, "SECRET" DOCUMENT WILL STRONGLY CASTIGATE LOPEZ REGA AND SOME ECONOMIC MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND POSSIBLY OTHER CABINET MEMBERS. IN ALLUSION TO REAL INTENT PUBLISHED DOCUMENT, LABOR SENATOR PENNISI TOLD PRESS THAT "ONE HAS TO KNOW HOW TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES, AND I HOPE THE PERSONS TO WHOM IT IS DIRECTED KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET IT". THE SECOND DOCUMENT SHOULD SPELL IT OUT FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T.

4. IN OTHER MOVEMENT WHICH WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN POLITICAL WING OF PERONIST LABOR, STRONG MOVE IS UNDERWAY TO REPLACE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (UOCRA) SECRETARY GENERAL SEGUNDO PALMA WITH UOCRA ORGANIZATION SECRETARY ROGELIO PAPAGNO, WHO IS SECOND TO MIGUEL IN 62 ORGANIZTIONS HIERARCHY. IN PRELIMINARY SKIRMISHES, PALMA'S MAJOR SUPPORTER WITHIN UOCRA, ASSISTANT SECGEN SAAVEDRA, WAS SUSPENDED FROM POSITION FOR 60-DAY PERIOD ON MARCH 21, AND PAPAGNO HELD MAJOR RALLY AT UOCRA EVENING MARCH 24 TO SUPPORT HIS DRIVE TO REPLACE PALMA. INEFFORT TO FURTHER UNDERMINE PALMA'S POSITION, PAPAGNO TOLD PRESS THAT PALMA WOULD BE RESIGNING AS CGT SECRETARY GENERAL "THIS WEEK". AN EXTRAORDINARY UOCRA CONGRESS TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS WILL BE HELD SHORTLY. THE INEFFECTUAL PALMA MAY NOT HOLD OUT EVEN THAT LONG.

5. WHILE THEY WOULD SEEM TO HAVE REPRESENTED MOVE ON ROCAMORA'S
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PART TO COOPERATE WITH LORENZO MIGUEL, FULL IMPLICATIONS OF HIS "ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS" FOR TRADE UNION SECTOR STILL UNCLEAR. ARREST OF ANTI-LORENZO MIGUEL VILLA CONSTITUCION UOM LEADERS APPEARS TO FAVOR MIGUEL, AT LEAST ON SURFACE. HOWEVER IN DECEMBER 1974 FOLLOWING MONTHS OF AGITATION AT VILLA CONSTITUCION PLANTS, WHICH INCLUDE UOM INTERVENTION OF LOCAL UNION AND ELECTIONS, MIGUEL REACHED LIVE-AND-LET-LIVE ACCORD WITH CLASSIST LEADERSHIP WHICH CONTROLLED LOCAL UNION. THUS, HOWEVER ROCAMORA INTENDED

THEM, IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER ROCAMORA'S CLOSURE OF THAT UNION AND THE ARREST OF LEFTIST LEADERS WILL STRENGTHEN OR WEAKEN MIGUEL'S POSITION WITHIN THE TRADE UNION ARENA. NOR IS IT YET CLEAR HOW, OR IF, ROCAMORA'S ACTION WILL AFFECT LABOR'S HIGHLY INTENSIFIED DRIVE IN THE POLITICAL ARENA. ROCAMORA'S PROBLEMS WITH BOTH LOPEZ REGA AND MIGUEL MAKE HIS PRESENT ACTIONS OPEN TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS. FURTHER ANALYSIS SENT SEPTTEL.

6. LABOR BELIEVES THAT LOPEZ REGA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INABILITY OF 62 ORGANIZATIONS AND CGT TO OBTAIN REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH MRS. PERON, WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY DELAYED FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, AND THAT HE IS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ITS FULL PARTICIPATION IN GOVT AND POLITICAL PROCESSES. LABOR IS NOW PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO HIS REPLACEMENT OR AT A MINIMUM A GREATLY REDUCED POSITION OF INFLUENCE. COMPLAINTS AGAINST OTHER GOA OFFICIALS ARE REAL, BUT NOT SO INTENSE.

7. PRESENT MOVES BY LABOR ARE WITHIN POLITICAL ARENA AND ARE BEING DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY BY POLITICAL LABOR ARM OF PERONIST MOVEMENT. UNDER CASILDO HERRERAS CGT IS CONCENTRATING ON TRADE UNION MATTERS AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS IS FOCUSING ITS EXCLUSIVE EFFORTS ALONG POLITICAL LINES. RELIABLE LABOR SOURCES ADVISED LABATT THAT MIGUEL AND HERRERAS HAD REACHED MODUS OPERANDI ALONG ABOVE LINES TO FORESTALL ANY DIVISION OR CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE TWO.

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